

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing because I feel strongly that BellSouth's petition seeking to deregulate a large part of our nation's broadband infrastructure would, if granted, adversely affect the current gold standard of quality and choice in Independent Service Providers (ISPs) that tens of millions of customers enjoy and rely upon, every single day.

The very same ISPs that built the Internet, and maintain it to consistently high standards, should not be held hostage to the ever-expanding bureaucratic ills of a few large telephone monopolies, and quite frankly, their third-rate captive service providers. Neither should any, let alone all of their customers.

While BellSouth's petition naturally doesn't include large parts of the country, I am deeply concerned that a successful attempt at literally forcing competition out of one strongly held region may encourage the likes of SBC, Verizon, and Qwest to follow suit in any or all of the remaining few.

I have been a subscriber to both and truly value the exceptional nature of my current Independent Service Provider Sonic.net, over the likes of regional telephone monopoly and mediocre broadband service provider, SBC/Yahoo!

Please help protect the competitive landscape that truly fostered today's high quality, top ranked independent ISPs, and preserve the nation's current regulated broadband infrastructure.

Regards,  
Chad Barry

Dismayed former SBC/Yahoo! regional broadband customer...  
...Elated Sonic.net Independent broadband customer!